

Message Text

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ACTION EB-11

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FM AMCONSUL BREMEN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1303

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMCONSUL HAMBURG

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E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ENRG

SUBJECT: WORLD TANKER TRADE

REF: STATE 247028

1. ITEMS(A)THRU(C)OF PARA TWO STATE'S 247028 ARE NOT REPEAT NOT EASILY OBTAINABLE IN CASE OF WILHELMSHAVEN. THE BEST INFORMATION OF THAT SORT WE CAN OBTAIN READILY IS A MONTHLY REPORT. MONTHLY REPORT AVAILABLE ABOUT THE FIFTH OF EACH MONTH COVERING TOTALS FOR THE PRECEDING MONTH. THE TOTALS GIVE THE NUMBER OF VESSELS BY FLAG BUT NO BY PORT, DATE OF ORIGIN, AND NAME. THE CARGO TOTALS ARE BROKEN DOWN IN THREE CATEGORIES (A) CRUDE OIL, (B) HEAVY HEATING OIL, (C) LIGHT HEATING OIL. AGAIN THESE TOTALS ARE FOR THE WHOLE MONTH AND NOT BY SHIP.
2. APPROACH TO PORT CAPTAIN IS DEEMED INADVISABLE. ONLY INFORMATION WE COULD GET FROM HIM WOULD BE ARRIVAL DATES AND POSSIBLY SHIPS NAMES, IF HE WERE WILLING TO DIVULGE THEM. GIVEN COMPACTNESS OF WILHELMSHAVEN COMMUNITY, WE ARE ALMOST CERTAIN ANY APPROACH ALONG THESE LINES TO PORT CAPTAIN WOULD BECOME KNOWN IMMEDIATELY IN INTERESTED OIL CIRCLES.
3. IMPORTS OF OIL TO WILHELMSHAVEN PRACTICALLY EXCLUSIVELY VIA NORDWEST OELLEITUNG GESELLSCHAFT IN WILHELMSHAVEN, A CONSORTIUM OF LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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FIVE OIL COMPANIES WITH THE GERMAN MEMBERS APPARENTLY NOW IN THE

MAJORITY. EXXON, UNDER NAME OF ESSO AG HAMBURG, IS MEMBER OF CON-SORTIUM WITH ROUGHLY 25 PERCENT INTEREST. WE BELIEVE INFORMATION DESIRED COULD BE OBTAINED FROM NORDWEST OELLEITUNG GESSELLSCHAFT BUT WE DO NOT BELIEVE THAT THEY WILL GIVE IT TO US DIRECTLY. WE SUGGEST THEREFORE THAT DEPARTMENT ATTEMPT TO OBTAIN DETAILED INFORMATION DESIRED VIA EXXON CORPORATION.

4. COMMENT: GROUNDS FOR OUR BELIEF IT INADVISABLE FOR US TO APPROACH NORWEST OELLEITUNG IS APPARENT FACT THAT PATTERN OF OIL SHIPMENTS INVOLVING WILHELMSHAVEN HAS RECENTLY TAKEN ON NEW ASPECTS. WHETHER THESE IN FACT INVOLVE ONLY SUPPLEMENTAL CALLS AT WILHELMSHAVEN BY TANKERS WHICH HAVE PARTIALLY OFF-LOADED AT OTHER PORTS OR INTO LIGHTERS CANNOT BE DETERMINED. THERE IS WIDESPREAD SUSPICION HOWEVER THAT BECAUSE OF PROXIMITY OF HOLLAND THERE MAY BE SOME DIVERSION INVOLVED WHICH UNDERSTANDABLY THE COMPANIES WOULD NOT WISH TO DISCUSS. SULLIVAN

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